Paradox in State
By LEO EGAN
New York Times (1857-Current file); Nov 2, 1956; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2002)
pg. 1

Paradox in State

By LEO EGAN

Democratic and Republican leaders in New York were of the opinion yesterday that the Middle East crisis apparently had improved Mayor Wagner's chances of winning the United States Senate seat being vacated by Herbert H. Lehman.

Paradoxically, the crisis likewise seemed to be having the effect of improving President Eisenhower's prospects of winning New York's forty-five electoral votes, in the opinion of the same people.

The explanation for this apparent contradiction was that a substantial number of Democrats with ties to Israel were abandoning previous intentions of voting for Attorney General Jacob K. Javits, the Republican candidate for Senator. This shift represented no perceptible loss to President Eisenhower, since most of these Democrats were

Continued on Page 19, Column 2

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.

Mideast Crisis Is Expected to Aid Wagner and Eisenhower in State

Continued From Page 1

intending to vote for Adlai E. Stevenson, the Democratic candidate for President.

President Eisenhower's stand against the involvement of American troops in the Middle East fighting, on the other hand, appeared to be winning new supporters for him among parents of draft-age boys and among draft-age men and their wives. But there was serious doubt that any substantial number of these new adherents would also vote for Mr. Javits.

As a consequence of developments since Israeli troops invaded Egypt, campaign aides at the Mayor's Democratic-Liberal headquarters in the Biltmore Hotel were predicting that Mr. Wagner should be able to overcome a Republican plurality of 500,000 for President Eisenhower in New York State.

Only a week ago, before the shooting began, the Mayor's advisers were saying privately that he would not be able to overcome a plurality of more than 300,000 for the Republican Presidential ticket and that perhaps he could not overcome that.

Javits Reputation a Factor

From the start of the Senatorial campaign both Republicans and Democrats have assumed that some Republican voters would either vote for Mayor Wagner or refrain from voting on the Senate at all. This assumption has rested largely on Mr. Javits' reputation, when a member of the House of Representatives, as a liberal whose political ideology was often indistinguishable from a Democrat's.

One upstate Republican explained his attitude this way: "If we are going to get a liberal Senator anyway I'd rather he were a Democrat; then I wouldn't have to apologize to my friends for him."

The extent of this feeling among orthodox Republicans has been a frequent matter of speculation. In the 1954 State campaign, Mr. Javits received 31,046 fewer votes upstate than did Senator Irving M. Ives, the Republican candidate for Governor, but ran 35,291 votes ahead of Mr. Ives in New York City.

This year, many analysts have assumed that Mr. Javits' upstate total would run 150,000 or more behind the President's. But Republicans counted on the Attorney General's offsetting this loss by picking up roughly the same number of votes from Democrats in New York City.

The Israeli-Suez situation has altered these assumptions. Mr. Javits has been booed at several rallies because of his support of President Eisenhower's criticism of Israeli military action. Reports coming into Republican and Democratic headquarters yesterday were that the Democratic votes Mr. Javits had been counting on winning would not be his.

U. S. Action Feared

Moreover, there was fear in Republican headquarters that Mr. Javits' position would deteriorate further before Election Day. This would certainly happen, in the opinion of some observers, if the United States applied economic sanctions against Israel in an effort to induce her to end military actions or if this country approved of West Germany's suspension of "restitution payments" to Jews as a means of applying pressure.

Restitution payments are sums that the West German Government has been paying to Jews in compensation for property damage and loss of life under the Hitler regime.

Some of Mr. Javits' supporters were hopeful that the National Administration would make some dramatic gesture as a means of restoring peace in the Middle East. Such a move might involve the naming of an outstanding American to mediate the dispute between Israel and Egypt.

In any event, they are hopeful that Mr. Javits' support of the President's action will win for him the backing of some of the Republicans who planned to sit out the Senate contest.

The prevailing opinion at Republican headquarters is that Mr. Javits still holds an edge in his contest with the Mayor because of the size of the prospective Eisenhower plurality. But it is conceded to be a smaller edge than it was last week.

At the Mayor's headquarters the view is that Mr. Wagner is back in the race with perhaps an even chance to win. Optimism is rapidly replacing gloom among Democratic politicians.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.